



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC ANNOUNCES DETAILS FOR JANUARY 31, 2013 TELEMEDICINE DEMONSTRATION

Washington, D.C.: The Commission today announced details for a January 31, 2013 telemedicine demonstration by Georgia Telehealth Partnership, in conjunction with an FCC staff presentation at the Open Commission meeting earlier that day regarding the FCC's ongoing work to expand broadband access and spectrum availability for health care uses. Telemedicine and telehealth applications can improve the quality of health care delivered to patients in rural areas, generate savings in the cost of providing health care, and reduce the time and expense associated with travel to distant locations to receive or provide care.

The demonstration will include a simulated patient examination with the Coffee Regional Medical Center in Bacon County, Georgia, a participant in the Rural Health Care Pilot Program. The demonstration will be followed by audience questions and comments. The demonstration will be held in the Commission Meeting Room at the FCC's headquarters in Washington, DC. It is free and open to the public, with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The demonstration will highlight some of the technology applications that will be enabled by FCC initiatives. In particular, the FCC created the Rural Health Care (RHC) program to improve access to communications services for eligible health care providers. In December 2012, the Commission reformed and streamlined this program, creating a new, efficient Healthcare Connect Fund. Healthcare Connect will expand health care provider access to broadband, especially in rural areas, and encourage the creation of state and regional broadband health care networks. The new program will continue to help health care providers obtain broadband to implement telemedicine and telehealth applications.

Georgia Telehealth Partnership focuses on increasing access to health care through innovative use of technology including telemedicine, health information exchange and telehealth.

Presenters

Paula Guy, Chief Executive Officer, Georgia Telehealth Partnership
Dr. Jeffery Kesler, Chief Operations Officer, Georgia Telehealth Partnership
Les Evans, Liaison, Georgia Telehealth Partnership
Mike Porter, CIO, Georgia Telehealth Partnership
Dr. Debra Lister, Coffee Regional Medical Center

Agenda

1:00 – 2:00 Telemedicine demonstration
2:00 – 2:30 Audience questions and comments

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please include a description of the accommodation you will need. Individuals making such requests must include their

contact information should FCC staff need to contact them for more information. Requests should be made as early as possible. Please send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau: 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

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